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If our friends who favor us with mas cation wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purposs.

### Juggling with the Rapid Transit Act.

The partisans of the projected rapid transit railroad seem to have gone crazy over the virtual killing of the scheme. To revive it they now propose to violate the Rapid Transit act, and, what is more, to obtain the sanction of the Supreme Court for perpetrating the violation.

The plan for constructing the railroad submitted to the Legislature and authorized by it, contemplated the advancement by the city of the money necessary for the purpose, and its repayment in full out of the rental of the work after it was completed. The contractor for its construction was to equip it with rolling stock and maintain and operate it for a term of not less than thirty-five nor more than fifty years, paying to the city as annual rental not less than the interest on the bonds issued by the city to obtain the money for the construction, and, in addition, 1 per cent. as a sinking fund. In this manner it was expected that the bonds issued to pay for the road would ultimately be retired, and the city would own the work free of debt.

To secure the city for its advances, se tion 34 of the Rapid Transit act directs the Commissioners appointed under it, to contract for the construction of the work by a contract which shall provide that the contractor shall also "equip, maintain and operate" it "for a term of years to be specified in said contract not less than thirty-five nor more than fifty years," and shall annually pay into the treasury of the city the rental heretofore mentioned. Then follows this provision:

"The person, firm or corporation so contracting for the construction, equipment, maintenance and operation of said road, shall give a bond to said city in such amount as said Board of Rapid Transit Rail road Commissioners shall require, and with sureties to be approved by said board, who shall justify in the aggregate in double the amount of said bond. provide for the prompt payment by said contracting person, firm or corporation of the amount of annual rental specified in the aforesaid contract, and also for the faithful performance by said contracting person firm or corporation, of all the conditions, and requirements specified and provided for in sale

Further on, it is provided that in case of default the city may take possession of the road and operate it on account of the contractor and if the road fails to earn enough to pay the rental, that the contractor and his bondsmen, "shall be and continue jointly and severally liable to the aforesaid city for the amount of such deficiency until the end of the full term for which the said first contract was originally made."

It is clear from these provisions of the act that the Supreme Court has not the power. even if it has the will, to allow a bond to be given by the contractor to cover the construction of the road alone, and allow the city to take the risk of its earning the annual rental for it after it is constructed. Nor can the Commission make a contract which shall bind the city, if it omits to require security for the rental of the road as well as for Its construction. If it should attempt it, the city could be enjoined from issuing bonds under the contract.

There are Judges in Berlin," said the peasant whom FREDERICK the Great threatened to despoil of his little patch of ground

## The Great Issue of Riparian Rights.

New Jersey, like New York, has a Governor to elect in 1898, and already the watchword of the fight is announced by some of the more sanguine of the leaders of the Democratic minority. The issue is to be riparian rights.

Riparian rights! The movement to "push them" is to constitute the campaign of those Jersey enthusiasts who are positively determined and inexorably resolved to disregard totally the consideration of all other matters, Federal, State, local, or international, and to concentrate their energies upon the supreme, overshadowing, and ever-recurring issue of riparian rights. By all means these must be defended with club and cutlass, sabre and shotgun, brawn and treasure, fire and blood.

The only trouble with the riparian rights statesmen in New Jersey appears to be that no two citizens of that State are clearly agreed as to what these rights are, and how, if at all, they may be affected by the election of a Governor.

## Some Fruits of the Scaling Bill.

It is clear that the new scaling act will have various results. To begin with, by prohibiting Americans from pelagic hunting, it will leave the sea catch hereafter to the Canadians, and, if their Government does not make a like restriction, their average catch may improve somewhat over what it would be with American vessels from San Francisco, Seattle, and Port Townsend sharing the spoils.

On the other hand, the closing of the American market to Canadian - caught skins will be far more than an offset Our people will share, in one respect, the new disadvantages, as the price of sealskins presumably will go up. The Pribylov Island catch can come here, so that there will be some supply; and possibly the difficulty of identifying, on the dressed furs, the waters where the animals were killed, may bring us also some sea-caught skins, under the pretence that they were taken on the Government islands. But probably, one of the early official steps will se to provide marks for the Pribylov products or other means for thwarting evasions

of the law. If a move should be made to have the Pribylov skins dyed here, instead of in London, there would be a double blow at English interests. The London industry of dressing the skins long has been, it is said, on the side of protecting the seals from the ravages of the pelagic hunters, and now. with a great market for the pelagic catch shut up, it may be loud in protests.

Perhaps the prospect of losing the United States market for both the London dressers and the Victoria hunters may bring the English Government to a proper arrangeseent with us. The President may keep the | legions into Manchuria, might show him-

bill under consideration for a time, with that in view. Its object being to bring pelagic sealing within proper bounds, if that result should be accomplished promptly by other means, he might refer it again to Congress. One good reason for promptly signing it would be to give due notice to American vessels that usually go out, beginning operations as far south as the California coast, early in the year: but they now have warning enough in the passage of this bill. As to the fur trade here, it is not likely to be much affected, as it is said to have a stock of sealskins, and their price would be advanced by the law.

For the first time in years, therefore, our Government has the best hold in the struggle. Its pleadings for the proper restric tion of pelagic sealing have been useless for years, but now overtures, if there are any, should come from the other side. Our opinion is that, as matters now are, the President should take only the customary time for the proper consideration of this bill of Congress, and then, if matters remain as they now are, sign it,

### Is China to Be Partitioned?

There is something naïve in the inquiry mooted by certain Japanese newspapers whether the occupation of Kiso Chou Bay and the adjacent district by a German force has not taken place in pursuance of an understanding between Germany, Russia, and France.

That such an understanding exists can be doubted by no one who recalls the Treaty of Shimonoseki and the circumstances un der which that treaty was materially modifled. There never was a case where a knowledge of the past was more indispensable for the comprehension of the present. The facts are that the three European powers named combined to rescue the Pekin Government from a critical position, and that, up to the other day, only one of the three, namely, Russia, had received any compensation for the service. What we are now witnessing at Kiao Chou Bay is simply proof of the conviction on the part of the second partner, Germany, that delays are dangerous, and that it would be prudent not to wait for her share of the reward until the Trans-Siberian Railway shall have been completed, and until the plans for a tremen lous increase of the Japanese navy shall have been carried out. The appearance of the third partner, France, as a claimant for recognition, is now not likely to be postponed very long.

Let us call to mind, in detail, the events of which we now behold the outcome. On March 5, 1895, the Japanese captured Neu Chwang, having previously taken Wei Hai Wei and Port Arthur, the two Chinese naval fortresses, which command the entrance to the Gulf of Pe-chili. They were now in a position to advance upon Pekin, and no force at the Chinese Government's disposal could have prevented their occupation of that capital and the overthrow of the Manchu dynasty.

The advisers of the Celestial Emperor were panic stricken, and, among the projects discussed was the flight of the im perial family southward to one of the western provinces. Ultimately it was deof Li Hung Chang. On March 10, the Pekin Government notified Japan of its wish to despatch the veteran statesman to sue for peace. Four days later the envoy embarked, and the conferences began at Shimonoseki on March 21. The Mikado's represen tatives at first showed themselves disposed to insist upon very rigorous terms, but after an attempt had been made on March 24 to assassinate Li Hung Chang, a cessation of hostilities was ordered and a treaty was negotiated some weeks later whereby China, besides agreeing to pay a large pe cuniary indemnity, abandoned all claim to Corea and ceded to Japan the Liau Tung peninsula, on which Port Arthur stands, together with the island of Formosa and that part of Manchuria interposed between Lian Tung and Cores. The treaty also gave Japan the right to occupy Wei Hai Wei, the naval arsenal in the province of

agreed upon. On April 24, just a week after the conclusion of the treaty of peace, the Russian, German, and French Governments protested against the permanent acquisition of any Chinese territory on the Asiatic mainland by Japan. Had the British Government foreseen the significance of this demonstration and declared that the treaty was equitable and ought to be upheld, the protest would have been unheeded by the Mikado, for on land he had nothing to fear from the three protesting powers, and with the help of the British fleet he could have

faced them successfully at sea.

But England's interests in Egypt disinclined her to thwart the schemes of three great powers in the far East, and, perhaps, she shared their apprehension that Japan, once planted in the Liau Tung peninsula, would easily find a pretext for further encroachments, and, at no distant day, would effect the conquest of the Middle Kingdom. At all events, she made no sign, and the Mikado had to yield to the intervention of the protesting powers, lest their combined fleets should cut him off from communica tion with his troops on the mainland, and should bombard his seaports. By the treaty, as revised, he got an additional secuniary indemnity, but gave back to China all the ceded territory on the Asiatic mainland, a retrocession which has practically involved the extinction of Japanese influence in Corea, to uphold which was

the original object of the contest. Such was the service rendered to China by the three protesting powers, and it needed no prophet to foretell that they would, ultimately, insist on being paid for it. Then came the tender of the Czar's good offices to procure for China the money needed to pay the first installment of the indemnity to Japan; and next followed, at decent interval, the treaty between China and Russia, whereby the latter power acquired privileges in Chinese Manchuria tantamount to a protectorate over that region, together with the right to occupy, as a winter station for its fleet, some ice-free Chinese harbor, which, although unnamed, was divined from the first to be Port Arthur. Of course, the occupation of that port once effected, Russia would dominate the Liau Tung peninsula, and would acquire the desired terminus for a branch of

the Trans-Siberian Railway. Russia, however, was in no hurry to avail herself of her treaty rights, and, doubtless, would have waited until the Trans-Siberian road was finished, had not her hand been forced by Germany. It was not the interest of Kaiser WILLIAM II. to wait any longer, both because the Japanese war fleet is increasing at a rate which threatens to make t the preponderant naval force in the Pacific, and because it was possible that the Czar, when he should be able to pour his

self forgetful of his debt to his whilom Ger-

The murder of German missionaries furnished precisely the pretext required, and the occupation of Kiao Chou Bay, promptly ensued, against which the Czar, as we have seen, had no moral claim to protest. Recognizing, on his part, that the hour had come to throw off the mask, he proceeded, himself, to occupy Port Arthur.

It remains for France to show her hand. and then we shall begin to hear the talk about spheres of influence which preceded the partition of Africa. It is already evident that to Russia will fall all that part of Chinese territory which lies north and northeast of the Great Wall, and that Germany aims to control the whole province of Shan Tung, which is rich in mineral treas-

ures, especially coal. We may note, in passing, that it was pointed out, years ago, by RICHTHOFEN that the naval power possessing the coal fields of Shan Tung, which are easily accessible from the sea, would have a redoubtable advantage over its rivals in the Pacific. What France is likely to demand. a glance at the map will indicate. To command the Gulf of Tonquin she needs the island of Hai Nan and the western end of the Kwang Tung province, including the Lien Chou peninsula. She would thus include in her sphere of influence the provinces of Kwang Se and Yun Nan, to which

she has long wished to become purveyor. It is, of course, absurd to suppose that England and Japan will remain unconcerned spectators of a division of the Chinese seacoast. They have it in their power, by concerted action, to nip the whole scheme of partition in the bud and to drive the Russians out of Port Arthur and the Germans out of Kiao Chou Bay, or, If they do not desire to resort to such heroi measures, they can secure for themselves ample slices of the Middle Kingdom.

Great Britain secured not long ago from the Pekin Government the right to fortify certain points on the mainland near the island of Hong Kong, and she would, undoubtedly, claim most of the province of Kwang Tung, including, of course, the city of Canton, as within her sphere of influence. It would not be surprising if she also insisted on occupying some of the islands near Shanghai and the entrance to the Yang-tse-Klang.

It is more difficult to say what would be done for Japan, which, already lodged at Wei Hai Wei, might be disposed to dispute the province of Shan Tung with the Germans. She would probably be satisfied, however, with the province of Fuh Keen, which lies directly opposite to Formosi contains some 15,000,000 inhabitants, and boasts of two treaty ports, Fuh Chou Foo and Amoy.

Even if the coastwise provinces here men tioned should pass under the ascendancy of the five naval powers to which we have referred, there would still remain to the Manchu dynasty an enormous empire, and it would become the interest of its European neighbors to guarantee its stability. The reigning family would cease, however, to have any motive for residing in Pekin after Manchurla had fallen practically under Russian sway, and it would undoubttermined to invoke once more the services | edly choose a more southern city for its capital, either Nankin or some other place further west.

### Women's Hats in Indiana Churches

Reform spreads ever widening wings. It has come with a tremendous whirring to Muncle, which is commodiously situated on the west fork of White River, Indiana and contains several churches, of which only the High Street Methodist Episcopal need here concern us.

The High Street Methodist Episcopal board of Muncie is said to have begun or talked of beginning a movement against the use of high hats, women's high hats, in the congregation. Thereupon the ladies in the congregation are reported to have removed the offending hats without waiting for the appeal of authority.

With the highest respect for the board of Shan Tung, until the last installment of the High Street Methodist Episcopal, what his regular route strikes the imagination. the indemnity should be paid and until an obstruction worthy to be abated is a woacceptable commercial treaty should be man's hat, however extensive, sky-aspiring, and shady, in that or any other Methodist church? People go to the Methodist church, as to most other Protestant churches, to hear. Little appeal is there made to any other sense. There is no nomn of ceremony. Do hats prevent anybody from hearing the sermon? Must not the biggest of them act rather as sounding boards for the ears under them?

## A Peril to Women Shoppers.

The case of Miss PEARL ANDREWS, who vas arrested last Saturday on a charge of oilfering a cheap pair of men's gloves at he dry goods establishment of Ehrich Brothers in the Sixth avenue, offers a warning to the proprietors of that concern which they will be obliged to heed, if they wish to retain any considerable measure of

eminine patronage. The arrest of Miss Andrews was made at the instance of a superserviceable wo man detective employed by the EHRICHS, who insisted on dragging her through a great crowd to be searched, and persisted n accusing her of the petty theft, though the gloves were not found on her and there was no evidence to sustain the charge When the case of Miss Andrews came up in a police court on Sunday, she was discharged by Magistrate BRANN on the ground, to use his words, that "there is not

he slightest bit of testimony against you.' Any lady visiting the establishment of EHRICH Bros. being liable to the humiliation and outrage of such a suspicion, search, and arrest, it is obvious that some radical reformation in its spying system is needed. Undoubtedly great crowds in such a shop, and a multitude of portable articles scat tered over the counters offer peculiar temptations and opportunities for the thievishly disposed; but so also the desire of the magnify their office and seem to earn their pay is likely to tempt them to make groundless accusations against ladies. Some at tempts at theft under such circumstances may be inevitable, but the liability to mistakes by the women hired to "spot" them is also great, and sensible men would be distrustful of the watchers as well as of the watched.

The possible loss to a concern of the kind by petty pilfering is slight in comparison with that which it will incur if it is brought into reproach by a false accusation like that made by the Ehrichs' pe tinacious spy against Miss Andrews. Honest and self-respecting women naturally will be afraid of a place where they are liable at any moment to be arrested as thieves because of the suspicions of feminine detectives eager to make a reputation for lynx-eyed zeal.

Accordingly, the newspapers which published the account of the arrest of Miss

concern in which the outrage occurred, but attributing it generally to "an establish-ment in Sixth avenue," brought under unjust suspicion all the other great shops in that thoroughfare.

# Putting Aside the Wheels.

Central Park and the Boulevard seem to be almost forsaken. They are not only bereft of much of their natural beauty but are deserted by thousands of their most frequent and attractive visitors. The immense number of wheelmen and wheelwomen to be seen in those places only a few weeks ago has dwindled so rapidly that now the sound of the bicycle bell, so continuously heard during the summer, almost causes the hurrying pedestrian to look up in surprise.

The season of the bicycle has been unusually long and enjoyable this year. Before the spring fairly opened, large numbers of wheelmen were to be seen on the avenues and even in the country districts, and neither mud nor rain appeared to affect their enthusiasm. The wheel's popularity has resulted in the construction and improvement of paths and roadways all over the country, thereby rendering the sport safer, more agreeable, and more beneficial than it was before.

The year's cycling experience has also resulted in a better understanding by the city's authorities of the place which the bicycle should occupy with regard to fourwheeled vehicles. Rules have been established which effectually restrain reckless wheelmen and make it possible for the others to ride unmolested. The usefulness of the bicycle squad has been shown, and the size of the squad has been increased.

The feeble prejudice against the use of the wheel by women has constantly become more feeble until to-day it is entertained by an exceedingly small number. The wheelwomen have suffered a good deal of unkind criticism, but they have demonstrated by skill and perseverance that the exercise is every bit as good for them as it is for their brothers. And it is noticeable that a much smaller percentage of accidents occurred among the wheelwomen last season than among the wheelmen.

Taking all in all, the bicycle has added wonderfully to the life and interest of the year. There have been numerous mishaps among the riders, but perhaps for every accident that has occurred a score of persons have been made more healthy and muscular. If the season of 1898 proves to be as successful as that of 1897, all will have reason to rejoice.

### Mail Route No. 78,105.

The letter of a mail carrier on route No. 78,105 of Uncle Sam's mighty system has been printed by order of the House Committee on Military Affairs, thus becoming part of the official documentary history of the United States. The mail carrier's name is BRANED, or BRANER; the compositors and proofreaders of the Government Printing Office are not quite able to decipher his rugged and unconventional autograph.

The mail route served by Mr. BRANED or BRANER is from Juneau to Circle City and return. Hear his matter-of-fact description of his last journey down:

"I left Circle City Sept. 14. Our party poled up 11 days 3 hours. From Dawson we poled up to Mc-Cormack's Post, about 265 miles, arriving there Sun-lay, Oct. 24. We were compelled to lie over at Sixty-Mile Post for five days. At McCormack's we abandoned our boats and started overland on what is known as the Dalton trail, about 800 miles to Chilkat, where we arrived safely after twenty-five days' travelling through two to three feet of snow over a mountain trail. We started with twelve horses, and they were all dead before we got one-half way. Hoping that this brief outline will be of some assistance, and would be pleased to be at your service for any information in my power."

This is merely incidental to some valuable intelligence which Mr. BRANED or BRANER communicates to Secretary ALGER concerning the state of affairs in the Klondike region.

Letter Carrier BRANED'S or BRANER'S modest narrative of one of his trips over His is a part of the orderly and ubiquitous postal service of the United States Government, and it is not the easiest part. As he plods and plunges through two or three feet of snow for twenty-five days at a time, after the twelve horses with which he started have all died, or as he poles for six hundred miles along ice-burdened rivers Mr. BRANED or BRANER is performing precisely the same function as his gray uniformed colleague who starts out from the Mail street side of the New York City Post Office to deliver a letter at the Astor House or in Temple Court. And the letters in Mr. Braned's or Mr. Braner's mail bag bear the same little red postage stamp: the two-cent stamp is good for across Broadway, or it is good for the polar side of the Arctic circle.

Is there any wonder that the people of the United States entertain peculiarly friendly sentiments toward this splendidly administered branch of the public service, and toward its myriad servants as individuals, whenever and wherever they are encountered in the performance of their duty, as we now happen to encounter the Juneau and Circle City carrier?

Mr. BRANED or BRANER deserves to have his name straightened out, so far as the Government Printing Office is concerned. His is too distinct and too interesting a personality to be blurred by alternative spellings.

The contractor goes to work and expends the first \$5,000,000. Then he throws up his contract and the work is abandoned. What becomes of the other \$50,000,000 of debt?—Times.

Yes! and what becomes of the \$5,000,000 which the city has paid the contractor! The city will have to show for it, only a uscless bit of tunnel, which it will cost more than \$30,000,000 to complete, and which may not earn operating expenses after all.

As was expected, the Hon. MARY ELIZA BETH LEASE has not only resolved to prevent the Hon. JERRY SIMPSON from being renomiwomen detectives employed by the firm to | nated for Congress, but she has resolved to succeed him herself. We warned the Sockless SOCRATES when he bought his bicycle with gold-plated handles and donned his first pair of purple-and-gold golf stockings that the people of his Congress district would begin to doubt the sincerity of his campaign against the money power. We warned him that the Hon. MARY ELIZABETH LEASE WAS on his trail. He was too busy riding his plutocratic wheel and admiring his legs and watch ing Tom REED. Now he knows where he made

> Pres McKiklay.—Boston Globs. Et tu, Globe.

Some disappointed Chicago youths are said to have formed an association for the discouragement of marriage, or at least for the purpose of trying to restrain them-selves from getting married. The association has a fine Virgilian motto and elabo rate rules. It is well for such a concern to have elaborate rules. They are so much easier to break. To call upon a young woman twice a week will be to incur a fine of \$2. To Andrews without indicating the precise set married will cost \$25 and a "banquet"

this club are going to be of appalling frequency, and if any money gets into the treasury it will soon be spent on wedding presents. As for the "banqueta," they will take the cheerful form of wedding breakfasts.

It is a comparatively small exhibit, but these three items in the list of public building bills introduced during the past fortnight have been overlooked:

Improvement of public building at Colum-..... \$50,000 bus, Ga ..... Public building at Cohoes, N. Y. Public building at Yonkers, N. Y...... 200,000 The grand aggregate to date is seven millions of dollars. The wheels will begin to revolve

again when Congress meets after the holiday

Mount Vernon is now getting anxious to be come a part of Greater New York. Let her come in by all means. New York can well bestow some of her greatness upon so charming a little city as Mount Vernon.—New York Heradd.

The charming little city of Mount Vernor roted three years ago on the proposition re ferred to somewhat tardily by the belated Herald, and this was the result of the poll: For consolidation, 873; against consolidation, 1,603

The petitions which have been sent to Congress in favor of the establishment of postal banks seem to be of the strictly commercial character which is common to so many of those lists of names. The Indianapolis Journal says that "the canvassers in some localities were paid 1 cent each for the signatures of citizens. The riends of the solicitors of signatures were anxous that they do well in this work, and some times signed the petitions two or three times per day." Petitions so obtained will have their just weight with Congress. The once be loved right of petition has lost much of its value by the fictitious nature of so many petitions. The dignity of writing one's name is not greatly valued. Once when certain of the citizens of a town were petitioning the Postmaster-General for the re noval of the Postmaster and certain other citisens were petitioning that he should be allowed to keep his place, a cold-blooded, impartial observer discovered that substantially the same names were on both documents. It is so hard to say No and it takes so little time to write you name; and perhaps there is a feeling on the part of the signer that he is exerting an influence upon something or other-what makes no differ ence. A petition is a petition.

There are no present indications that Tammany Hall, the organization which was suc pessful at the late election, is to have an enroll ment. No enrollments in Tammany, except between the hours of sunrise and sunset on election day at the polls.

Thought is working overtime in the Illiols Legislature. One representative has introduced a bill to lay a tax of 2 per cent, on the gross receipts, exceeding \$50,000, of all gas and electric light companies. Why 2 per cent? Shall free-born man truckle to the infernal corporations? Why not 52 per cent.? Why not 1021 Somebody must pay taxes. Another member's bill provides that "hereafter all dogs shall be assessed to the owners thereof as other personal property, and no license fee shall be collected from such owner for the privilege of owning any dog or dogs." It is a privilege to own some dogs and almost as great a privilege not to own certain others. Much can be said in favor of raising the legal status of dogs or, rather, of giving them one; but the value of the plan for a board of dog assessors may be doubted. Many woes and wars have arisen from dogs and many men will fight for a dog who would not fight for their country. Assessors have trouble enough now. A board of dog assessors would have more than all the trouble there is The probability is that they would be massacred by a rising of dog owners.

The number of good dinners eaten by the descendants and the eulogists of the Plymouth Forefathers on Forefathers' Day fills the just heart with regret that the Forefathers themselves could not have dined better. It cannot be said with truth that they lived high; and their cooking must have been stern and rock bound.

#### THE RIGHT VIEW OF THE PENSION BUSINESS.

### A Patriotic Veteran's Soutiments. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: As a veteran, but

not a pensioner, of the late war I wish to express my approval of your article upon the pension frauds. If the pension rolls are to be purged of unworthy names, veterans themselves should patriotically lead

I served as a soldier for three years and participated in every battle in which the Ninth Corps was engaged, beginning with South Mountain, but returned uninjured. I have, therefore, considered the ess than insulting, as equivalent to asking me to put a price upon what I felt could not be measured in

This very reason, however, has made me feel that those who were disabled should receive liberal pen out that, in justice to them, all others should re eive no pensions whatever

It is really a slight placed upon soldiers who saw service that unworthy applicants-men who neve melled powder-should impudently, if not frauduently, secure Government support. NEW YORK, Dec. 20. WILLIAM H. BREARLEY.

#### Are Not Both Parties Responsible TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUB-Sir: Your long expo

tion of the pension business is interes There is one fact which strikes me forcibly. The Dependent Pension act, by which the pension roll has been so enormously lengthened, was passed in 1800. Since that time we have had four years of Cleveland,

whose specialty was opposition to the pension sys-tem; yet during his Administration the number of pensioners was increased by about 100,000, which was about the same addition as under the earlier laws during his previous Administration from 1855-9. Why was it that Cleveland, with large facilities for detecting fraud and every incentive of personal in-clination and party advantage to discover it, did not succeed in reducing the tendency of the pension roll to increase? He sat up nights vetoing a few private pension bills, dealing with exceptional cases not within the requirements of the general pension laws, but those general laws went on n their operation, augmenting rapidly the great body of pensioners without his interference. If frauis existed, they existed during his time. How is it that this pension business continued undisturbed during these Democratic administrations, if there was in t the opportunity afforded by gross frauds to make political capital for Democratic use against the Re-

If there has been widespread fraud and corruption both parties must be held accountable for it equally NEW YORK, Dec. 20.

## The Pension Robbery-A Suggestion.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Having read with great interest your timely article, "Robbing the Nation," which you published to-day, I beg le submit a practical suggestion, which might go far to suppress this crying evil.

Let Congress pass a law compelling the Pension Bureau to publish for one year in every issue of all newspapers that may be called upon to do it, because they have the largest number of readers, names of all persons who draw pensions in their respective districts with the claims on which such pengranted, offering at the same time suitable rewards for the verified exposure of every fraudulent claim. I believe many pensioners would fear exposure by their neighbors and voluntarity abandon their pretended claims, so that the appropriation entailed by such a measure might be saved months of its initiation. Yours truly, saved within three LOUIS WINDSULLES.

Scribner's Magazine for January has in the place of honor Senator Lodge's first article on the "Story of the Revolution"; in second place stands the first installment of Thomas Nelson Page's "Red Rock, a Chronicle of Reconstruction." Bret Harte contributes a characteristic poem. "The Birds of Circucester," Reginald de Koven describes "Some Tendencies of Modern Opera," and Mrs. Moody affords her third paper on "The Unquiet Sex." Other con tributors are Susan Nichols Carter, Edith Wharton Lloyd Osbourne, Wolcott Le Cléar Beard, Aline Gor to Free, and Rossmund Marriott Watson.

TWO CURIOSITIES OF THE WEEK

L.-The Opening Wedge for the Income Tax-In the House of Representatives on Dec. 16 Congressman Shuford of North Carolina, a Populist, introduced a joint resolution to amend the Constitution of the United States relating to direct taxes. The proposed amendment to be submitted to the States is this:

ARTICLE XVL The provisions of the Constitution of the United States relating to direct taxes and the apportionment thereof among the several States n proportion to the census enumeration shall not apply to income taxes; but the Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on all incomes, regardless of the source from which the income is derived or acquired; provided, however, that all income taxes which the Congress may lay and collect shall be uniform

throughout the United States. Il.-The Opening Wedge for the Chinaman In the House on the same day Mr. Smith of Illinois, a Republican, introduced the following bill to permit the naturalization of American-

ized Chinese: Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of Amer-

ica in Congress assembled. That all male persons of Chinese birth or descent, who are of good character and repute, and who have been lawfully within the United States for ten years or more; who have dis-

carded the characteristic dress of the Chinese people, including the cue; who have adopted the dress of the people of the United States, and who speak the English language, shall be eligible to naturalization under title thirty, Revised Statutes, entitled "Naturalization," and all laws amendatory thereof; provided, that all evidence of fact in sation shall be made by citizens of the United

#### CHASING WELSH RABBITS. Persons of Renown Have Trapped Them, but No One Ever Saw n Barebit.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There really ought to be no controversy on the subject of welsh-rabbits. No writer of good English has ever used such a horrible locution as "rarebit." R. C. Trench, afterward Archbishop of Dublin, did make a guess in his "Study of Words" (published in 1851) that welsh-rabbit aight have come by attrition from weish-rarebit; but even Mr. Trench did not presume to state that there was then (f. c., 1831) any such genuine word existing in the English language

In the first book of poems written by Ton Hood, known as "Odes and Addresses to Great

Hood, known as "Odes and Addresses to Great People." and published in 1825, occurs an ode to W. Kitchener, author of the "Cook" o'Rock." &c. &c. The last line of the fourth canto of this ode reads: "Welsh Rabbits—and thyself—in Warren Street." (The capitalization in this case is merely old style). In a work called "The Newcomes," by one William Makepeace Thackeray, published in 1855, on the fifth page in most editions occurs the phrase" and a desire for welsh-rabbits and good old glee-singing led us to the Cave of Harmony.

There are a good many persons with real claims to literary distinction living, and there have been a good many similar persons now dead, who are or who were content to back Thackeray's knowlege of English, pure and undefiled, against all the modern lexicographers except one, against all the cheap-jack novelists and fourth-rate journalists, and against even the distinguished authority of the printed bills of fare in New York eating houses. By the way, can any of your readers furnish an earlier quetation for welsh-rabbit than Hood in 1825. ation for welsh-rabbit than Hood in 1825 !
E. H. M.

### A Written Examination in Physiology. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Referring

to your notice of Mark Twain's last book, I send you the following answers made by pupils about twelve years of age upon written examination in physiology and hygiene. I won't say where, but that the answers are genuine and have never been published I vouch. TARRYTOWN, Dec. 20.

"The bones hold up the body and we could not walk without them."

"The stomach is a pear shaped bag furnished with "If it wasn't for the bones we would be like a case orplilar and couldn't walk."

"The stomach is a pear shaped bag. It holds the head, trunk and limbs and the head is a round ball on top of the stomach. It holds the brain and the trunk the chest and abdomen." "The puls is the beating of an artery in the wrist,

and we need the puls because then the Doctors car tell whether we are in poor health or had health " "Tobacco maks the hart beat eragier and weaken

"The liver can be felt below the ribes and it makes "The pulse is a little thing in the wrist and it tells

when a person is not healthy."
"The capilars are a net work of long capilars and they gragly be and unite with the veins "When we run and play and jump is called exerise. We need it to make the blood flow faster

brisker." "The most important articles of diet are clothing pure food, fresh air, exercise and potatoes." "Gymnastic is an exercise. You do that with dumb

A Virginian's Impressions of Boston

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Speaking of obsters, in the winter of 1870 an ancie able Virginian of the Jefferson and Jefferson Davis school travelled to Portland, Me., to secure transfer the inheritance of a ward to valuable East rn railway shares.

It was the first excursion of his life beyond Balti On his return he mentioned to his acquaintsnees the incidents of his journey. He reported that the Yankees were a punctual business people. Every-thing was settled on the day and at the hour; no inerruptions, no hesitations, and no technicalitie uggesting delay. He had not been cheated or over

harged on any occasion. Boston ?"

"Well, but did you visit Boston ?"

"Ob, yes. Stopped off in Boston two days coming oack. Put up at the Parker House. Came near staying three days. Saw some fine gentlemen there. Was nirodured to Mr. Levi Woodbury and to Mr. George lones, and to some of their friends. Drank with them and they drank with me. Goo! liquors there; peach and thoney, if you called for it. Just as good as in Saltimore."

Baltimore."

"What were the opinions of the gentlemen, conservative or radical?"

"They were conservative, for about all they talked of was Webster and lobsier."

KATIONAL MILITARY HOME, KANSAS, Dec. 12.

## A Hereic Explorer Tells of His Hardships. From the Rev. Dr. Tartarin Hepworth's Letter in the New York Herald.

A cast fron stomach is necessary to digest the daily food of the Turk. He delights in gravies and eats sweetmeats and rich crusts with tremendous appe-tite. I am thoroughly tired of his menu and long with inexpressible longing for the simple cooking o try people know nothing about. I sometimes dream that I am sitting at an American table, enjoying the plain food to which I am accustomed, and when I wake up it is with a sigh that comes from the depth

## Ronat Shoat and Dyspepsia in Missour

From the Hartsburg Enterprise. parded the passenger train Thursday morning for Nevada, where they will spend several days visiting The editor will also spend a few days at Eldorado Springs to restore his failing health, as he has been suffering here of late with dyspepsia, caused from overindulgence in roast shoat, which was served at a banquet given in this town recently.

News Items from Mentucky. From the Louisville Evening Post An old maids' convention is to be held at Danvil's

Twin boys were born to the wife of Bob West living near Mayfield. Husking bees are features of the bazaar given by the country church societies

George Friendish is the proud father of triplets, and there's no happier man in Becspring precinct. The next trip of the Tennessee up the river which bears the same name will be her great whiskey or Thristmas jug trip, and hundreds of gallons of liquor

Miss Margaret Ingels of Paris, who has been the successful leading lady of "Rooks Players," resigned er position and returned bome to enter the canvan for State Librarian.

will be shipped from Paducah.

Others Think Otherwise. From the Indianapolis Journal. He thinks he's a Christian, good and right, My neighbor across the way; but he keeps a dog that howis all night, and a daughter that sings all day. TOBACCO PIPES DIAGNOSED.

## ledical Preference for Clay Over Wood-

From the Lancet.

If tobacco smoking is justifiable at all on

hygienic grounds, it is generally concoded that the pipe is the least injurious means. But tobacco pipes differ considerably in material and shapes, both of which must be important factors in determining the character of the smoke. Thus there is the clay, the meerschaum, and the various wooden pipes, the briar, cherry, and the various wooden pipes, the briar, cherry, or mysil. Next to the tobacco, therefore, which should always be pure and free from added flavoring, an expedient which is resorted to far too commonly nowadara probably in many instances to cover as inferior quality of tobacco, the best kind of pipe is a point to be considered. Even assuming that he is smoking good tobacco, the smoker knows how different in character the smoke is when drawn from a clay or a wooden bowl. There is probably a scientific explanation of this fact which must have some bearing on the noxious or innocuous character of the smoke associated with other products of combustion. A soft clay is invariably cool smoking, because the aerid oils obtained on the destructive distillation of the tobacco are absorbed instead of collecting in a little pool, which must eventually either by the volatilization or by mechanical conveyance reach the mouth. A particular pipe "smokes hot" not necessarily because the temperature of the smoke is high, but because the temperature of the smoke is high, but because it favors the passage by one of these means of the oils into the mouth. Mecrechaum is another porous material. Again, an old wooden tipe or briar, so dear to inveterate smokers, becomes "smood smoking" because the pores of the wood widen and so absorb, as is the case with tobacco oils. Thus an old pipe "sweats," as it is termed—that is, the oil intrudes into the expanded pores of the wooden bowl and at length exudes. Similarly, a hook-shaped pipe must be better than a pipe the bowl of which is on the same level as the mouth, for the simple reason that in the former a considerable quantity of the oil is kept back in the U-shaped part of the pipe, while in the latter the fill travels easily down the stem. Ebonite stems have produced distinctly objectionable symptoms in the throat, most probably for the reason just given. Bone or real amber makes a much more satisfactory stem, or the pipes should be of wood throughout. Amber substitutes, and especially cel or myall. Next to the tobacco, therefore, which ould always be pure and free from added

#### THE LATE SIR FRANK LOCKWOOD. Characteristics of time of Eugland's Most Brile liant Advocates at the Bar.

Sir Frank Lockwood, the English barrister who died in London on Sunday, had the reputaman to come to America who could appreciate the point in an American joke on the spot and mediately, so to say, go it one better. For this reason, if for no other, his popularity in this country was greater than that of almost any other Englishman who ever came over. In the ummer of 1896 he visited the United States, in company with Lord Russell (Sir Charles Russell), to attend the meeting of the National Bar Association at Saratoga. His was one of the principal addresses at the meeting, and at the banquet his was one of the most felicitous speeches. He had a great fund of anecdotes and stories, and, in addition to being able to tell a new story well, had the rare gift of drossing up an old story so that it passed almost for now. Aside from his ability as an after-dinner speaker, by which he was best known in this country, his standing as a lawyer in England was very high. By many he was considered the best jury lawyer in England, and if he had a rival in this particular line of practice it was only Lord Russell. R. T. Reid, who was Solicitor-General under Lord Rosobery's Ministry, once said of him:

"Since the withdrawal of Sir Charles Russell to a more serene atmosphere Sir Frank Lockwood is the most brilliant advected at the France of the server of the company with Lord Russell (Sir Charles Rus-

said of him:

"Since the withdrawal of Sir Charles Russell to a more serene atmosphere Sir Frank Lockwood is the most brilliant advocate at the English bar."

This was a year after Lord Russell had been elevated to the bench and had been made a life peer. Lockwood was not considered the equal of Russell as an all-around lawyer, but as a trial lawyer he was said to be without a peer. When Sir Charles Russell became a peer, a large part of his practice fell to Lockwood.

It has been said of him that when he went at a hostile witness he did it much in the manner of a man inviting another to dinner. Through the keenest cross-questionings he preserved his importurbable good-nature and politeness, and more often than not long before he had finished his victim was looking on him as a kind and sympathetic friend.

He was a man of broad and liberal tastes, devoted to art in its various forms. He was always to be seen at private views and at the leading first nights. He was a favorite in society and in various clubs. He represented York in Parliament on the Liberal side, and, while he never took a leading part in the work of that body, he often enlivened dull debates with his wit and humor.

## GUARD REORGANIZATION.

First Meeting of the Board of Officers pointed by Gov, Black. ALBANY, Dec. 20.-The Board of National

Guard officers appointed last week by Gov. Black to revise the State military code so as to sermit a reorganization of the National Guard net here at noon to-day. All of the members of the board were present except Capt. Miller of the naval militia, who sent an excuse. The board organized shortly after noon. Col. Phisterer, by virtue of his rank, acted as Chair-

Phisterer, by virtue of his rank, acted as Chairman. Adjt.-Gen. Tillinghast greeted the members of the board and said he hoped the result of their labors would be acceptable to the members of the Guard and be for its best interest. Referring to the Governor's attitude on reorganization, the Adjutant-General said:

"The Governor is in entire sympathy with the work detailed to be accomplished by this board and it is his earnest desire that politics should not enter in the question in the slightest degree. He wants the reorganization to be established on sound military principes and the working affairs of the Guard economically and intelligently administered."

The Adjutant-General then retired. The meetings of the board are held in the Adjutant-General's private office in the Capitol. After a session of an hour and a half the board adjourned until 10 A. M. Dec. 28, at the Twelfth Regiment Armory in New York city. Col. Phistorer said that nothing would be announced concerning the deliberations of the board until after the board's report and recommendations had been submitted to Gov. Black for his approval.

The members of the board were entertained. The members of the board were entertained.

The members of the board were entertained.

at lunch at the Fort Orange Club this afters by Adjt.-Gen, Tillinghast. Gov. Black Major Burbank, U. S. A., were also guesta.

JERSEY CITY'S NEW MONUMENT. Philip Martiny's Design Selected for the Soldiers and Sallors' Memorial The Artists' Advisory Committee, which was

requested to select a model for a soldiers and ailors' monument, to be creeted in front of the City Hall in Jersey City, announced its selection City Hall in Jersey City, announced its selection yesterday. The committee consisted of J. Q. A. Ward, George B. Post, Daniel C. French, and Herbert Adams. Forty-one models were placed on exhibition. The names of the sculptors were not known to the committee. The model submitted by Philip Martiny, sculptor, and Ackerman & Rose, architects, was selected. The design is simple. A figure of a woman, emblematic of war, is seated on a low pedestal, the sides of which will be appropriately inscribed. The monument will be 21 feet in height.

The model which took second honors was submitted by Charles H. Nichaws, sculptor, and Henry Hacon, architect. The third in meris was submitted by J. Massey Rhind, sculptor, and Arthur D. Pickering, architect. The monument is to cost \$10,000.

# TO THE YALE LIBRARY.

# inson Phelps Stokes, Jr., Cives a Buddhist

Manuscript and Some Photographs. NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 20.-Anson Phelps lokes, Jr., Yale, '96, has recently given to the university library a very interesting collection of nearly three hundred mounted photographs, obtained by him on a journey around the world. Nearly half of the collection consists of views of India, and the rest of views in China, Corea, and Siam. The gift included also a valuable Buddhist manuscript on paim leaves in the Pali-Burmese dialect.

# Skating About the Bronz.

The first skating of the season has been discovered by the ubiquitous small boy on the line of the Bronx River, north of Williamsbridge. The river and all running water were as free of ice as a summer brook yesterday, but the little inlets and pools in the swampy ground adjacent were incrusted with ice solid enough to support light-weight skaters, and groups of from three to a dezen boys formed skating parties all along the upper line of the valley of the Bronz.